Relief measures for mitigation of drought situation in Maharashtra

2402. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra has requested for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund to take various relief measures for mitigation of drought situation in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government propose to sent assistance and how much amount Government propose to release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Maharashtra had submitted a memorandum seeking financial assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for the drought experienced by the State in 2005. The High Level Committee (HLC) considered the request of the State Government and after taking into account the report of the Central Team, recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) thereon and norms of assistance under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/NCCF approved an amount of Rs. 174.66 crore for drought relief subject to the adjustment of the funds available in the CRF account of the State. After due adjustment of the funds available in the CRF account of the State for the instant calamity, an amount of Rs. 91.07 crore has been released to the State Government from NCCF on 18.7.2005.

Terrorist attack in border areas of J&K

2403. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is continuous terrorist attack in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the issue of the terrorist infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir border has been taken up by Government of India with Pakistan Government in the recent past; and

(c) if so, what are the reactions of the Government of Pakistan for the

continued terrorist attack in the line of control sponsored by Pakistan terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) A few terrorists attacks have been reported in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The overall level of terrorist violence has, however, come down significantly in the State.

(b) The Government has, in its interaction with Pakistan at all levels, continuously stressed the fact that Pakistan has so far not taken any significant action to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism, such as communications, launching pads, training camps, funding, etc.

Government is monitoring the situation very closely, and has made it clear to Pakistan that the premise on which the present dialogue process is based is the commitment of January 6, 2004 by Pakistan not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. In the Joint Statement made during that visit of President Musharraf on April 18, 2005, both countries reaffirmed the commitments made in the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004.

(c) Pakistan has denied the existence of terrorist training camps in Pakistan and of Pak involvement in terrorist attacks in India.

Scrapping of FCRA

2404. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Foreign Contribution Regulation Act is an archaic legislation, which is causing great hardships not only to organizers of International conference in India who are required to obtain prior permission from the Government for holding conference but also to research students who require approval for their projects; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to scrap this Act and if so, by-when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Government is considering certain changes in the law governing the receipt and utilization of foreign contribution by voluntary organizations to remove shortcomings noticed in the present law.